



Phoenix FireWorks

Volume 2 ♦ Number 9 ♦ November / December 2002

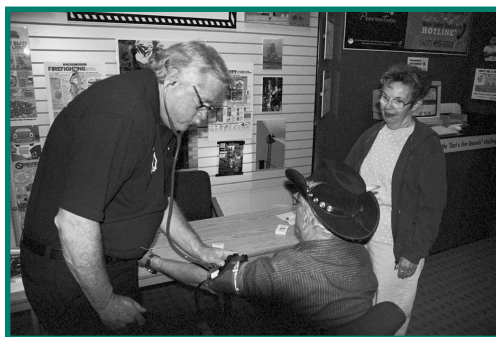
Phoenix Firehouse Is Now Open!

It took seven months and a lot of renovation, but the new Phoenix Fire Department safety store, "Phoenix Firehouse" is now open!

The idea for the store came from Fire Chief Alan Brunacini, who visited a store owned by the Colerain Township Fire Department (located in a suburb of Cincinnati). Chief Brunacini proposed the idea to Assistant Chief Steve Kreis and Captain Jeff Griffin in April of 2002, who began the RBO process to create the store.

The proposal was taken to the management of Spectrum Mall. They thought it would be a terrific idea, based on their pre-existing relationship with the PFD's on-going Baby Shots program. They offered the PFD a 1500-square foot retail space at no charge! The deal was signed when the Phoenix City Council unanimously approved the store in July. Lea Farr, an MBA student at Arizona State University was hired to create a business plan, then the renovations began.

Jeff Griffin took the lead on the



renovation, and obtained the help of several PFD members to drywall, plaster, paint, replace ceiling tiles, put up new walls, decorate and stock materials in order to open the store by the deadline of November 18th. The first public glimpse of Phoenix Firehouse came on



Jeff Griffin took the lead on the renovation...



that very morning, when KTVK-TV's "Good Morning, Arizona" sent Brad Perry to report live during its four-hour broadcast.

The store is full of safety information, a seasonal safety display,
(continued on page 3)

Historic Station #8 Is Reborn!

by Mick Ennis, writer
(and retired FDNY Firefighter)

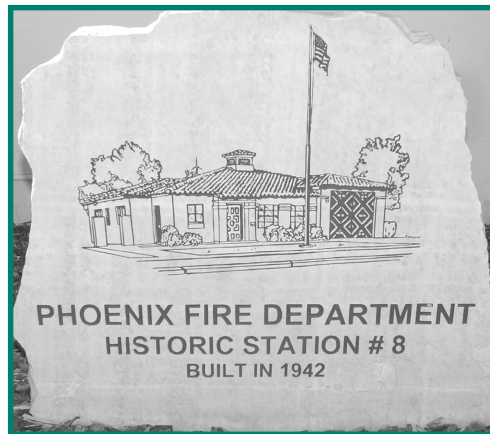
(Courtesy: [Arizona Foothills Chronicle](#))

On Monday, Nov. 18, a legend resurrected itself in the manner of historic Station #8 of the Phoenix Fire Department. At 10 a.m. the little firehouse that could, came alive with the resounding voices of some of the old timers like, "How the heck are you doing, I thought you were dead." Another old timer bellowed, "It must be twenty years since I last saw you." Some of the retired firefighters worked in the house that was dedicated in 1942 and was retired in 1976.

That was the theme of the day as old and new timers congregated at the corner of Encanto Blvd. and 7th Ave. on the West Side of downtown Phoenix. The firehouse blends in so well with the rest of the Willow neighborhood that you would not look twice except for the 1944 fire pumper sitting in the apparatus doorway.

Assistant Chief Bob Khan introduced some of the dignitaries and mentioned some of the retired guys in the crowd and Firefighter Ron Burris, Retiree Services Coordinator, explained how long it took to get the house back in shape and how many hours were involved in this labor of love.

A 2002 Ford 15-passenger van was donated to the retirees by the Arizona



Automobile Dealers Association which will be used to help retirees get around town for special events and hospital visits. Knox Ramsey, the President of the AADA, presented the keys to the new van to Chief Khan and in turn he was presented a plaque with an antique fire bugle.

The museum-like firehouse has memorabilia in every room in the one story house that covers 2,600 square feet and cost \$10,284 to build 60 years

ago. Pictures are everywhere as well as plaques and equipment that were used by another generation of firefighter. Heavy wooden ladders, antiquated air packs, collapsible closet ladders, nozzles and much more adorn the walls of the edifice. The place is a living history book and every Phoenician should try to get down there and eye ball all the paraphernalia from another era.

Eight retired firefighters from New York City were on hand to support their brothers in combat. The guys from the FDNY have their own retiree group that meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in Lagerfields Pub across from Paradise Valley Mall. It matters not if you fight fires in skyscrapers and tenements in New York or battle fires in a one story building in Phoenix, the brothers all have one thing in common, and that is the love of the job.

Take a trip downtown and stop by the jewel of the retired guy's paradise. The house is open Monday to Friday during daylight hours and the best part about the place, it is free! Make sure you bring the kids and do not forget your camera! ♦

*...the little
firehouse that
could, came
alive with the
resounding
voices of
some of the
old timers...*



photo courtesy of Russell Gales

Retired FDNY firefighters came to the festivities at Station 8 and share stories of "the good old days!" (kneeling left to right): Jimmy Donnelly and Ray Malone. (back row, left to right): Mick Ennis, Jim Cavolo, Joe Pecoraro, 89-year old retired Phoenix Firefighter Shirley Harker "Jack" Liston, Pete Breen and (far right), Sal Carone.

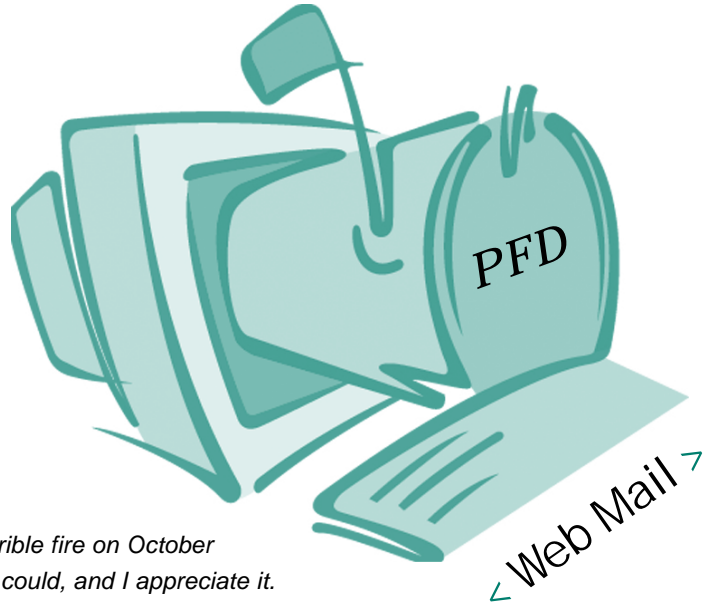
Firefighter Ron Burris, Retiree Services Coordinator, explained how long it took to get the house back in shape and how many hours were involved in this labor of love.



I would like to thank the Phoenix FD for saving Trinity Cathedral on October 9, 2002. I understand that the FD was five minutes from letting it burn down. This church has been a very important part of my life since 1945, when I moved here as a child. My 85-year-old mother wept when she heard that you bravely went in again - just one more time - to try once more – to save the church. I am most grateful that you did. Your determination is what gave us (the congregation) courage to rebuild all over again.

My sincere Thank You and Bless You All.

Dolly Forbes



Thank you for saving Trinity Cathedral from that terrible fire on October 9, 2002. I know you gave it the very best effort you could, and I appreciate it. Our family started its fourth generation in the Cathedral when my son Orion was baptized June 2001. Many thanks for the extra effort you gave in trying to save the church.

Eric Forbes and Orion Forbes

Thank you, thank you kind firefighters for saving my church, Trinity Cathedral. I have been a member of that church for 57 years. My daughters and grandchildren have grown up in this church. We will be meeting under a canopy for a while, but it is better than not having the church at all.

Thank you for your determination and respect. God Bless you all.

Jean Starnes

Who's Where

Promoted

to Fire Engineer
Jack Fox
Robin Sendlein
Donald L. Jones

Hired

Special Operations
as Management Assistant II
Thomas Skowronski

Union Hall
as Secretary II (for Fire)
Crystal Allman

ETS
as Account Clerk II
Valerie Dubla

Firehouse *(continued from page 1)*

recruitment materials, an interactive drowning prevention section and more. There is also a firefighter on duty to answer questions, as well as to take blood pressure readings.

Through a partnership with United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association, Local 493, Design 10 has moved its store from the Union's office to Phoenix Firehouse. This element of the store has become

quite popular, which resulted in a significant increase in sales volume for Design 10. The public is delighted, too because they can now purchase plenty of t-shirts, ballcaps, jackets and other fire department souvenirs.

The store has been a great success, thanks to the help of many dedicated individuals. Special thanks goes to Jeff Griffin, Pete Gorraiz, Brian Moore and Tim Knobbe for their tireless efforts. ♦

Phoenix Firehouse
is located at 1554 W. Montebello in Spectrum Mall

the phone number is 602-262-1655

The *REAL* Story of Bopsy!

Over the last 20+ years, the story of "Bopsy, The Littlest Firefighter" (sometimes referred to as "Billy") has circulated worldwide. It appeared in the first "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book on page 61, and has also become one of the most circulated chain e-mails. Just search the word "Bopsy" in any web search engine, and you'll see just how many websites around the world contain the story.

*The story is about a little boy with Leukemia, and his dying wish to become a firefighter. The Phoenix Fire Department is featured in the story because of the exceptional customer service paid to this little boy and his family. One of the main characters in the story is Fireman Bob, who is our own **Fire Engineer Bob Walp**. FireWorks asked Bob to tell us in his own words, the *REAL* story of what happened with Bopsy and the PFD.*

In 1981, I was at the old, downtown Station #1 on C-Shift, and I was also on the "Wallace and Ladmo" television show everyday doing safety messages for the Fire Department. (If you do not know who Wallace and Ladmo are, ask anybody who lived in Phoenix from 1954-1989!)

I was contacted by a young mother who told me her son had a terminal illness. I was told that the 9-year-old boy's (Bopsy) dream was to become a Firefighter, and he just wanted to come down and ride on a fire truck. I said I would call her back and make the arrangements, I contacted Steve Jensen and Carol Gross in Community Involvement, and we decided that we would get him a real set of turnouts and badge, and make him an Honorary Firefighter.

I contacted some other people, and soon they started a new charity, now known as "The Make-A-Wish Foundation." Bopsy (Billy) became the first Make-A-Wish child, and the organization has since become an international organization.

Anyway, we had Bopsy come down to Fire Station #1, and I gave him the grand tour. We slid down the fire pole, rode on back of the engine, tillered the ladder truck, had dinner and met all the guys on C-Shift.

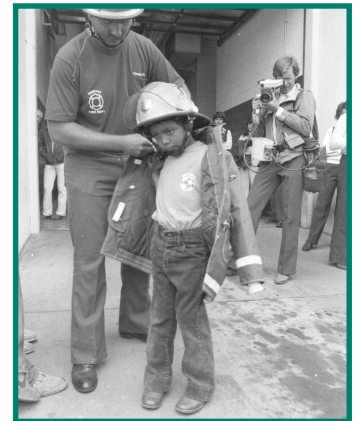
Over the next few months, he came down 3 or 4 more times – always dressed in his gear. He had lunch and a great time.

I took Bopsy on the "Wallace and Ladmo Show" with me and he got the very coveted "Ladmo Bag!" (A side note" Ladmo also since passed away, and has



a son on the Tempe Fire Department – Robin Kwiatkowski).

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was going to send Bopsy and his family to Disneyland, so I called some people at the Anaheim Fire Department. They picked the family up at the airport and



went to Disneyland with them. It just shows what a wonderful group of people they are!

A few months later, I was at home on sick leave with an ear infection, and Bopsy's mother called to say that the doctors thought Bopsy would die that day. I was crushed but I told her I would be right there. I went to St. Joseph's Hospital and met his mother outside his room. I then talked to the hospital staff, called my Chief and had Ladder 1 C-Shift come to the hospital. We put the ladder up to the third-story window and I climbed up and into his

room – followed by five other firefighters who knew Bopsy. We put him – with his IV into a wheelchair and took him down to the ladder truck. On the side, it said "Bopsy 1" where the "Ladder 1" sign was

(continued on page 5)

Bopsy *(continued from page 4)*

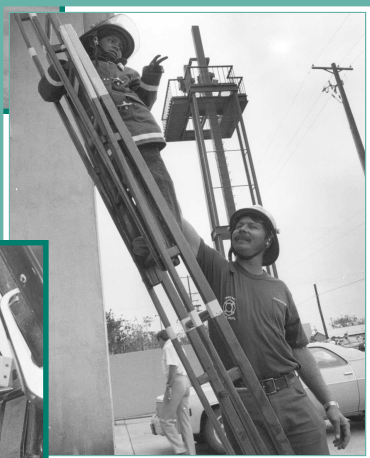
posted. We talked and took lots of pictures for an hour or so, then the ladder truck went back to the station. I stayed for several hours talking and just sitting in Bopsy's room, and later that evening, he passed away. It was so sad.

The next shift, I was back at work and the crew on Ladder 1 went to the funeral, where we were pallbearers. Bopsy was buried with his firefighter gear.

The bottom line is that all the Phoenix Fire Station #1 personnel were involved and were so helpful, along with Steve Jensen (who has since passed away), Carol Gross, Sandy Williams (also passed away), Donna White, Elaine Hutchings, and the whole Community Services section in 1981.

I am very proud that we could help.

The story has been embellished a little, and the name was changed to Billy, but the fact remains that the Phoenix Fire Department is the best... and we were being nice before we had to. ♦



*photos
courtesy of
Bob Walp*



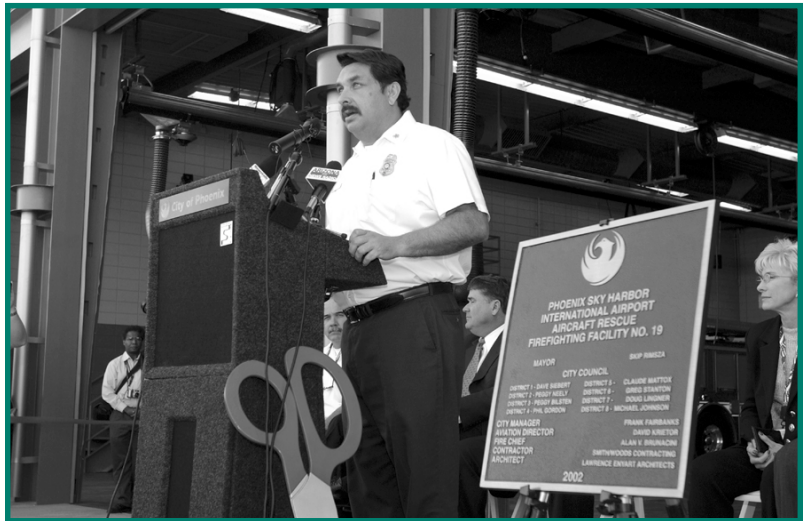
ARFF! ARFF!

When you hear the term “ARFF” mentioned at the Phoenix Fire Department, don't assume it has something to do with our Arson Dog, Zeus. ARFF stands for Airport Rescue Fire Fighting, and Phoenix Fire Station #19 has just moved into its new ARFF home!

Station 19 is located at the country's fifth busiest airport – Sky Harbor International Airport. The original fire station was built in the 70's, but was designed to house fewer firefighters and apparatus than what is currently in operation. That's why the new station was built.

Designed by Lawrence Enyart Architects, Station 19 is approximately 35,000 square feet. It has quarters for 15 firefighters, space for all of the apparatus and enough room for a day staff of 48. There are many features that make this station quite a home for its staff, including a tiered TV room, spacious kitchen and a second floor balcony that overlooks the runway. However, one of the key features of the new structure is something that isn't very obvious, and that's the way the staff likes it. It is a ventilation system that keeps the air inside the station free of jet fuel exhaust.

Along with 19, Station 29 was also built – just off the airport grounds on Air Lane. It serves the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as the airport, when necessary. Both fire stations will provide quicker response times to locations in and around the airport – giving residents and visitors the best possible customer service! ♦



Assistant Chief Bob Khan served as emcee for the festivities which welcomed City Hall, Aviation and Fire personnel.

Mayor Skip Rimsza, City Councilman Michael Johnson, UPFFA President Billy Shields and Fire Chief Alan Brunacini use the big scissors to official dedicate the opening of Station #19.



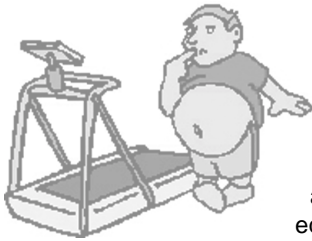
Airport Rescue Fire Fighting Station #19, as designed by architect Larry Enyart.

For The Health Of It!

Don't wait for January 1st to make a resolution about your health! The PFD Health Center wants you to start today!

Firefighters know the Health Center as a place to get their yearly physicals. But many don't realize that it's also a place that is full of resources (for sworn and civilian members), where they get a jump-start on a healthy lifestyle! Whether it's diet, exercise, smoking cessation, drug and/or alcohol issues, nutrition or medical screenings... the Health Center is here with experts to help.

November 1st kicked off the start of a new Wellness Program, designed to inform members about programs that are available everyday. Monthly calendars display the exercise classes, special health screenings, lunchtime lectures, and other informative programs.



The Fitness Center is available to all members... and there's no membership fee! Firefighter Julio Arenas is available every Tuesday at noon to show how the equipment works, and how to get the best workouts on the machines - whether you're just starting a new exercise plan or ready to run a marathon!

If the PFD's health center is not convenient for you, our health insurance provider, CIGNA has plenty of programs that are available at discounted rates. Some of the services include acupuncture, chiropractic services, cosmetic dentistry, eye exams, eyewear/contacts, fitness club memberships (as much as 60% off!), Weight Watchers memberships, hearing care and hearing instruments, laser vision care, massage therapy, and vitamins & herbal supplements. You can find more information at www.cigna.com.

Don't just make a resolution to get healthy...Do It!

If you would like more information on the PFD's Wellness Programs, or would like to suggest new ones, please contact the Health Center at 602-495-5797, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.



photo courtesy of Becky Bell

Drowning Prevention In Action!

The C-shift crew from Engine 40 took time out to assist Fire Prevention Specialists on November 16th with securing a swimming pool that had no protective barriers. Most pool drownings in Phoenix have occurred where there were either inadequate gates and fences or no barriers at all. Thanks to all for your drowning prevention efforts!

4th Quarter Anniversaries

Congratulations to all celebrating work anniversaries in the 4th Quarter of 2002!

25 Years

Hoot Gibson
Joe Gonzales
Pete Gorraiz
Gerald Price
Aris Scarla
Patrick Thompson
Tom Westfall

20 Years

Louis Balady
Julie Ezell
Lance Strong
Carmelita Trainor

15 Years

Anna Bahadar
Frances Vera
Darrell Wiseman

10 Years

Ray Armas
Joe Frazier
Candy Hyypa
John Mertens

5 Years

Jason Bedard
Chris Compton
Tom Conway
Andrew Fiese
Wilson Gartin
Chris Gonzales
Chris Healey
Brad Johnston
Lisa Klucznik
Manuel Leon
Nicholas Manzanares
Mark Montanez
Tammy Nelson
Jason Rideout
Michael Sanders
Mark Torres
Luis Valles
Daniel Whitehill

Phoenix Fire Department



Alan V. Brunacini, Fire Chief

Billy Shields, President,
United Phoenix Fire Fighters
Association, Local #493

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Radio Replacement Project Timeline

What's up with the 800 MHz project? Well, actually a lot. Training is going to begin during the first quarter of 2003! Take a look at the timeline below to get more information...

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ■ Construction | Oct. '01 - Sept. '02 | ■ System is Operational | Sept. '03 |
| ■ Infrastructure Installation | Feb. '02 - Apr '03 | ■ Police & Municipal | |
| ■ Contract issued for New Radios | Nov. '02 | Transition | Sept. '03 - Aug. '04 |
| ■ Training Begins | Jan. '03 | ■ Apparatus Equip. | |
| ■ System Testing | | Installation | Aug. '04 - Aug. '05 |
| & Acceptance | May '03 - Aug '03 | ■ Fire Transition | Aug. '05 |

A recent opportunity has given us the ability to create consistency with e-mail addresses within the Phoenix Fire Department. Send your questions regarding the radio replacement project to our new address. From the station, type **PFD, New Radios** and from outside the City of Phoenix use our Internet e-mail address, **newradios.pfd@phoenix.gov** ♦

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

by Father Carl Carlozzi, PFD Chaplain

Almighty God, in the New Year before us,
Grant us, we pray.

Appreciation for the beauty of diversity,
Humility to acknowledge our failings,
Strength to deal with our difficulties,
Resolve to admit and cast away our prejudice,
Humor to invigorate our spirit,
Patience to deal with difficult people,
Insight to recognize our own annoying faults,
Reflective moments so that we may listen,
Understanding as a gift we give to others,
Joy in appreciation for our blessings.

To sum it up Lord,
Help us, to be...
NICE!

Visit Phoenix Fire Department's Official Website at <http://www.phoenix.gov/FIRE>

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